

Amendments To the Abstract:

Please replace the Abstract with the following:

ABSTRACT

A switch is coupled between a plurality of host units and a device for communicating therebetween. Included is a first serial advanced technology attachment (SATA) port, a second SATA port, and a third SATA port. The first SATA port includes a first host task file coupled to a first host unit, and the first host task file is responsive to commands sent by the first host unit to the device. The second SATA port includes a second host task file coupled to a second host unit, and the second host task file is responsive to commands sent by the second host unit to the device. An arbitration control circuit is coupled to the SATA ports, and selects from the first and second hosts to concurrently access the device, through the switch, accepting commands from either host units at any time, including when the device is not idle.